

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CU-02

NIC-01 /069 W

----- 072841

R 040713Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1626

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EGEN, MY, SN

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS IN MALAYSIA

REFS: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 5676; (B) KUALA LUMPUR 5647; (C) KUALA LUMPUR 5728

1. SINGAPORE PRESS HAS NOT PUBLISHED ANY REPORTS OF SMALLHOLDER DEMONSTRATIONS IN JOHORE. HOWEVER, ON DECEMBER 4 PRESS PROMINENTLY FEATURED LARGE DEMONSTRATION HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR ON DECEMBER 3 (REF C). STRAITS TIMES GAVE STORY TOP PLAY WITH BANNER HEADLINES STATING "DAY-LONG BATTLE WITH POLICE IN KL STREETS, NATIONAL MOSQUE, GPO 1,000 HELD IN STUDENT DEMO." LARGE PICTURE ON FRONT PAGE SHOWED STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING OUTSIDE SELANGOR CLUB. CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS CARRIED DETAILED STORY (WITHOUT PICTURES) IN SECONDARY POSITION ON INSIDE PAGE CUSTOMARILY DEVOTED TO NEWS FROM MALAYSIA.

2. CHARGE DISCUSSED DEMONSTRATIONS WITH OLD FRIEND FROM PREVIOUS KUALA LUMPUR ASSIGNMENT, AHMAD NOORDIN, DIRECTOR OF MALAYSIAN INFORMATION SERVICE, AT COLOMBO PLAN DINNER GIVEN BY MALAYSIAN MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MUSA BIN HITAM. NOORDIN WAS CALLED

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TO TELEPHONE DURING DINNER AND RETURNED WITH REPORT THAT OVER 1100

STUDENTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY POLICE IN KUALA LUMPUR. MUSA HITAM ALSO MENTIONED KUALA LUMPUR DEMONSTRATION AND COMMENTED SOMEWHAT WRYLY THAT OUR STUDENTS "SEEMED TO HAVE COME OF AGE."

3. NOORDIN ALSO REFERRED TO RECENT KEDAH AND PENANG DEMONSTRATIONS (REF B) AND SAID THERE HAD ALSO BEEN A DEMONSTRATION IN BATU KURAU IN NORTHERN PERAK. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION, NOORDIN SAID HE WAS QUITE SURE THERE HAD BEEN NO DEMONSTRATIONS IN JOHORE. NOORDIN SAID THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS IN KEDAH AND PERAK HAD BEEN LARGELY MALAY SMALLHOLDERS, AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN STIRRED UP BY MALAY STUDENTS FROM THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. HE SAID THE STUDENTS HAD HOPED TO OBTAIN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY FROM THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN KEDAH AND PENANG, BUT THE PRESS HAD NOT GIVEN THEM VERY MUCH COVERAGE. HE SAID HE WAS QUITE SURE THE DEMONSTRATION IN KUALA LUMPUR HAD BEEN STAGED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY. HE RUEFULLY ADDED "IT SEEMS THAT THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED." GRANT

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Message Attributes

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